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New Rankings of Graduate Schools Have a Familiar Look

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U.S. News & World Report has released its 2010 rankings of graduate schools, and with minor exceptions, the top spots in the major fields remain virtually unchanged from [last year](#).

In business, Harvard University reclaimed sole possession of first place, which it had shared equally with Stanford University last year. Stanford took the second slot, followed by Northwestern University, which grabbed a share of the bronze with last year's No. 3, the University of Pennsylvania. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Chicago tied in fifth place.

In education, Vanderbilt University won out over Stanford, Columbia University, the University of Oregon, and the University of California at Los Angeles, in that order.

The engineering leaders fell in the same positions as last year, with MIT at the top, followed by Stanford, the University of California at Berkeley, the Georgia Institute of Technology, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The names at the top of the rankings of medical research schools were familiar as well: Harvard led the list, and the John Hopkins University came in at No. 2. Penn and Washington University in St. Louis shared the No. 3 spot this year, followed by the University of California at San Francisco at No. 5.

In law, Yale University maintained the top spot, with Harvard, Stanford, Columbia, and New York University once again rounding out the top five—Harvard having wrested sole possession of second from Stanford.

New this year, *U.S. News* ranked the 87 best part-time law schools. Other than New York's Fordham University at No. 3, the top of that list was dominated by schools in the nation's capital—Georgetown University at No. 1, George Washington University at No. 2, American University at No. 4, and George Mason University, in nearby Virginia, at No. 5.

The magazine also expanded its coverage this year to include rankings of doctoral programs in criminology, economics, English, history, political science, psychology, and sociology, as well as master's programs in library and information studies.

Its ranking methodology—a topic of perennial controversy—remained basically the same: Graduate programs in business, education, engineering, law, and medicine were evaluated based on a mixture of statistical indicators and reputational surveys of deans, program administrators, senior faculty members, and hiring firms. The other graduate schools were judged on the reputational polls only.